AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

Entered as second-class matter September 26, 1917, at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 10, 1918.

VOL. 8 NO. 37. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1918. WHOLE NO. 401.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

FREEDOM OF WORKERS MUST BE MAINTAINED

—President Gompers.

New York, Dec. 7.—Speaking at a labor victory jubilee meeting, held for the purpose of celebrating labor's share in winning the war, President Gompers declared that the workers will resist any attempt of industrial tyrants to ride on horseback over the bosses of the people.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the American alliance for labor and democracy.

"It might as well be understood that in fighting for industrial autocracy we do not want and won't consent to have as industrial autocracy take its place," said President Gompers.

"I know of no more dangerous utterances made during this entire war than following the very safety and peace and progress of our people and of our republic, than was uttered by Mr. Barr about two weeks ago. It was said of the French Bourbons that they never forgot anything and that they never learned anything. And it is true of this type of men in America, industrially they want to live in the days of 1815-1825, but meanwhile they are living in the sixteenth century.

"The time has gone by when the working people of America will ever be put in the shackles. We have now upon the statute books the privilege in law and in fact that the labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce, and that, as well as being laborers or workers, we are human, with the same rights of sovereignty before the law as well as to lead our everyday lives. That principle of the charter is now too sacred to be bartered away by the reactionaries who may desire to stem the tide of democracy the world over.

"We have secured the freedom of the seamen, the right of the seamen to own themselves when their ships are in safe harbor. Oppressed labor where the flag of the United States flies is shielded, and we are determined to permit any coterie of men to barter away the freedom we have gained after so many years."

DON'T FEAR LABOR SURPLUS.

New York, Dec. 7.—The Annalist, a magazine of finance, commerce and economics, expresses the opinion that there is "little danger of labor congestion through demobilization," and that "the decrease in immigration, as shown by the figures for August, and the number of returning soldiers seeking employment."

The Annalist acknowledges that large numbers of men will drift into new occupations and that readjustments will take place, but taking the proposition as a whole the editor does not accept the theory that there will be a condition which is referred to as a "glutted labor market."

The federal bureau of census is quoted in support of this position. It is shown that the total immigration during 1915, 1916 and 1917 was far less than in 1913 alone. In that year alone there were 1,218,480 arrivals, while the grand total for the other three years was just under 881,000.

"As unfamiliar as they were with the language and customs of this country, hundreds of thousands of immigrants at once found work and absorbed annually into the nation's industrial life, with comparatively little friction," is added. "Their sons are soldiers and sailors, knowing the life and lament of the country, and will settle down in sections with which they are most familiar, should disturb the economic balance of the country at all less."

The editor predicts that "at least 1,000,000 men will be retained abroad indefinitely in order to cope with any emergency that may arise."

The question of women who have been employed in munitions plants and from 25 to 45 cents an hour, is conceded to be a problem.

SAYS COAL WAS LIMITED.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Charges that corporations which control the anthracite coal fields decline to permit the output of increased operations before the senate committee on manufactures by Miners Wilhelm, a Pottsville, Pa., attorney.

Michael F. Burns of Burns Brothers, big coal operators in Pennsylvania, told the committee that coal dealers in the past few years have made more money than ever before. His firm, he said, made net profits of $1,200,000 last year and this year will make about $2,000,000.

The witness stated that if it were not for the fuel administration and its regulations coal would have sold last year for $20 a ton.

Another witness stated that the Reading Iron and Steel company has a surplus of $12,000,000, but that this is not in any way involved in the dispute between it and the holding company.

"That is like a dispute between you and yourself," observed Senator Kenyon.

CHILD LABOR BARRED.

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 7.—State authorities have prepared a list of occupations forbidden to children under 16 years of age by the state child labor law. The list is a long one and includes every occupation dangerous to life and limb, or injurious to health or morals. Should this act be violated by an employer he is decided shelter under the workmen's compensation act. Under the law no child under 16 years of age is permitted to work at any time between before 7 a. m. or after 6 p. m. nor more than eight hours in any one day, nor more than six days in a week. Parents can not work their own children in violation of this act.

KNOCK OUT POSTAL ZONES.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The senate finance committee has adopted an amendment to the war revenue bill which knocks out the postal zone system for second-class matter. The amendment provides for a rate of 1½ cents a pound beyond a 300-mile radius and for the present no extra cent per ounce postage on letters.

COMPROMISE ENDS STRIKE.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 7.—Striking plumbers and their employers compromised after a conference which will leave refunded to work. Wages are increased 5 cents a day until June 1 next year, when the rate will be $8 a day if the wage is paid in any one city in the state.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—House painters and paper hangers have raised wages $7 a day. Organized contractors and employing painters have accepted the new $7-a-day rate.

HAZARDS OF WORKERS HINDER WAGE SAVING

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 7.—"It is very difficult, if not practically impossible, for the wage earner to save for old age on account of the sickness and unemployment hazards to which he is exposed."

The above is one of the interesting statements by Rev. Dr. John O'Grady, who has directed a survey in this state for the Ohio health and old age insurance commission to ascertain the cost of living in Ohio, and of those who did save only a very small percentage were able to save sufficiently to make themselves comfortable during a small home worth $1,500 to $2,000.

Sickness and accident proved far more serious than old age as a cause of dependency during unemployment, it being found that where bad health was the cause of the failure to save, to get along, and strictly old-age dependency did not begin until 70 years of age had been reached.

In commenting upon this condition, Rev. O'Grady said: "Industry has been established "a very close connection between industrial accidents and sickness and superannuation."

The all around skilled mechanic has a longer working life than the unskilled or master of but one process. He is more independent, more free; that health is the greatest factor in staving off dependency and that the longer the working life the care workmen took of themselves.

"There is none," says Dr. O'Grady, "for whom the problem of old age is of greater importance than the wife of husband has died and left her propertyless. The fact that her husband's death is usually preceded by a long period of sickness makes it more than likely that she will be little left for the maintenance of the aged wife."

The survey also shows that while dependent aged people may expect support from children before they are married, "after marriage the children can no longer look on them with any sense of security."

No matter how much be done to prevent superannuation there always will be a large problem either for wage workers or others in case of sickness or accident, or because they have become too old to work, it is stated.

PROTEST TO PRESIDENT.

Rock Island, Ill., Dec. 7.—At a mass meeting of railroad workers held at the government arsenal a protest was adopted to President Wilson against the manner in which employes are being discharged, now following the signing of the armistice. The protest is as follows:

"Men who have come from patriotic motives from long distances and established themselves in this city for the winter are thrown out of employment with all the resulting sufferings of the winter. Especially is a spect is shown for long years of service and the many married and personal needs of married men nor their personal merits given any consideration whatever.

"Last Friday, one hour's notice, and a fifty-hour week, and a cut in the income this year is about $72,000,000,000 per cent of the amount to receive about one-tenth of this income."

P. O. CLERKS PRESENT PLAN.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The National Federation of Postal Employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has presented a program of betterments which congress will be asked to adopt during the reconstruction period.

The plan includes improved working conditions, retirement for aged postal workers, and to make permanent the present temporary wage classifications, supplemented by a temporary bonus "sufficiently large to at least partly offset present abnormal living costs."

Recognition of postal employes' organizations by the post office department and a court of appeals upon which the employes shall have representatives, are also asked.

"The two latter suggestions would introduce industrial democracy into the postal service," said Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Postal Employes.

"At the present time, when an employe is dissatisfied concerning action on the word of a secret investigator, his only recourse is to appeal to the official who accepted the word of the investigator.

"The record of the times is toward collective bargaining and the right to organize."

UNION MUST PAY $3,000.

Bristol, Conn., Dec. 7.—Carpenters' union No. 32 has exhausted its legal remedies in a damage suit against 12 members, and must now pay $3,000 to a contractor because the union's business agent enforced the union rules. The court held that the contractor's business was interfered with because of this "conspiracy."

Under the Connecticut law an employer is given a free hand to bring these damage suits. Two years ago the Waterbury iron moulders were fined $50,000 damages.

MORE CLERKS THAN NEEDED.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary of the Interior Lane has called attention to the fact that there are more clerks in this city than the government needs. "Several in office could be spared to the country," he says, "who are contemplating returning to their homes, but who, before leaving their homes should get renewed assurance from some authority in executive office in Washington that they are needed."

WALSH OFF LABOR BOARD.

Washington, Dec. 7.—President Wilson has accepted the resignation of Frank P. Walsh, joint chairman of the National War Labor Board. Basil M. Manly has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Frank P. Walsh, Printer Ford says the government printing office "is overrun with" the best skilled employes who leave to get higher wages elsewhere. He recommends substantial salary increases and a retirement law.

FIREMEN ORGANIZE.

Davenport, Iowa, Dec. 7.—Stationary firemen in the tri-cities have organized. These localities are this city and Rock Island and Moline, Ill.

PRESIDENT IN DOUBT ON FUTURE R. R. PLAN

Washington, Dec. 7.—In announcing his proposed visit to Europe at a joint meeting of the senate and house, President Wilson, discussing the question of what to do with the railroads now under government control, said:

"I have no confident judgment of my own," and "I frankly turn to you for counsel upon this."

The president expressed a hope "for the formal conclusion of the war by treaty by the time congress has come." As the law permits government railroad control for 21 months after the peace proclamation is issued, this would mean that the government must relinquish roads not later than the early months of 1921.

At the present time, the president stated, the railroad administration has plans for the full co-operation of the railroads. Under the law these plans must be indorsed by the board of directors of the various properties. Some of the boards have given their consent and others have not. With the war over, the situation has become complicated and the president gives neither an indorsement in terms—that if there is no agitation by the public for continued government efficiency did not begin until 70 years of age had been reached.

In commenting upon this condition, Rev. O'Grady said: "Industry has established "a very close connection between industrial accidents and sickness and superannuation."

The all around skilled mechanic has a longer working life than the unskilled or master of but one process. He is more independent, more free, that health is the greatest factor in staving off dependency and that the longer the working life the care workmen took of themselves.

"There is none," says Dr. O'Grady, "for whom the problem of old age is of greater importance than the wife of husband has died and left her propertyless. The fact that her husband's death is usually preceded by a long period of sickness makes it more than likely that she will be little left for the maintenance of the aged wife."

The survey also shows that while dependent aged people may expect support from children before they are married, "after marriage the children can no longer look on them with any sense of security."

No matter how much be done to prevent superannuation there always will be a large problem either for wage workers or others in case of sickness or accident, or because they have become too old to work, it is stated.

PROTEST TO PRESIDENT.

Rock Island, Ill., Dec. 7.—At a mass meeting of railroad workers held at the government arsenal a protest was adopted to President Wilson against the manner in which employes are being discharged, now following the signing of the armistice. The protest is as follows:

"Men who have come from patriotic motives from long distances and established themselves in this city for the winter are thrown out of employment with all the resulting sufferings of the winter. Especially is a spect is shown for long years of service and the many married and personal needs of married men nor their personal merits given any consideration whatever.

"Last Friday, one hour's notice, and a fifty-hour week, and a cut in the income this year is about $72,000,000,000 per cent of the amount to receive about one-tenth of this income."

P. O. CLERKS PRESENT PLAN.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The National Federation of Postal Employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has presented a program of betterments which congress will be asked to adopt during the reconstruction period.

The plan includes improved working conditions, retirement for aged postal workers, and to make permanent the present temporary wage classifications, supplemented by a temporary bonus "sufficiently large to at least partly offset present abnormal living costs."

Recognition of postal employes' organizations by the post office department and a court of appeals upon which the employes shall have representatives, are also asked.

"The two latter suggestions would introduce industrial democracy into the postal service," said Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Postal Employes.

"At the present time, when an employe is dissatisfied concerning action on the word of a secret investigator, his only recourse is to appeal to the official who accepted the word of the investigator.

"The record of the times is toward collective bargaining and the right to organize."

UNION MUST PAY $3,000.

Bristol, Conn., Dec. 7.—Carpenters' union No. 32 has exhausted its legal remedies in a damage suit against 12 members, and must now pay $3,000 to a contractor because the union's business agent enforced the union rules. The court held that the contractor's business was interfered with because of this "conspiracy."

Under the Connecticut law an employer is given a free hand to bring these damage suits. Two years ago the Waterbury iron moulders were fined $50,000 damages.

MORE CLERKS THAN NEEDED.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary of the Interior Lane has called attention to the fact that there are more clerks in this city than the government needs. "Several in office could be spared to the country," he says, "who are contemplating returning to their homes, but who, before leaving their homes should get renewed assurance from some authority in executive office in Washington that they are needed."

WALSH OFF LABOR BOARD.

Washington, Dec. 7.—President Wilson has accepted the resignation of Frank P. Walsh, joint chairman of the National War Labor Board. Basil M. Manly has been appointed to fill the vacancy. Frank P. Walsh, Printer Ford says the government printing office "is overrun with" the best skilled employes who leave to get higher wages elsewhere. He recommends substantial salary increases and a retirement law.

WIRE MEN LOCKED OUT.

Rock Island, Ill., Dec. 7.—The Electrical Workers' union has been locked out organized electrical workers are after it agreed to accept a wage rate and to the government's

MOONEY LIFE SENTENCE DOESN'T AFFECT ISSUE

Washington, Dec. 7.—Angering a newspaper request for a statement on Gov. Stephens' commutation of Thomas J. Mooney's death sentence to life imprisonment, A. F. of L. Secretary Morrison said:

"Organized labor will be in full accord with Gov. Stephens' statement, as it is, of course, unnecessary to argue the question of whatever Mooney's character or his past record may have been, the present case must be determined upon its merits."

"In my judgment," continued Secretary Morrison, "the commutation does not in any way settle this case.

"It must be recalled that the trade union movement has not asked a new trial for Mooney, takes the position that the charges of perjury in connection with his conviction make a new trial imperative. This position is identical with that of the Superior Court Judge Griffin, who conducted Mooney's trial and sentenced him to death. In a letter to State Attorney General Webb, on April 25, last year, Judge Griffin, in urging a new trial for Mooney, said: "The evidence was presented to him because I felt that I could not say that I would 'unhesitatingly' have granted a new trial. On November 21 of this year Judge Griffin reiterated his request in a letter to Gov. Stephens.

"Under the circumstances the trade union movement has urged that Mooney be given a new trial. The governor pardoning him and have him immediately arrested on one of the other murder indictments as a result of the bomb explosion.

"As the matter stands Mooney is to serve a life imprisonment on evidence that the trial judge says would not be sufficient under the conditions of the witness and go to the very foundation of the truth of the story told by Oxman (the state's chief witness) on the witness stand."

CAN MEN BE MADE TO VOTE?

Boston, Dec. 7.—At the last election this state adopted a constitutional amendment empowering the legislature to make provision for voting and now the Boston Globe asks how can you make men vote if they don't want to.

The newspaper believes, of course, that every citizen should exercise his right of franchise, but the question is how can this be accomplished.

"The mere right to vote," says the Globe, "the registered voter may exercise or not as he pleases, or stay away from the polls. But who is to be certain that all are registered? And who is to be sure that all register at the polls, what is to prevent him, under the Australian system, from voting in a ballot without a single mark upon it?

"Would it do the state any good to increase the proportion of 'ghosts' among the voters? Would it be worth while to compel the registered voter worth while, anyway? If a man does not care enough to go to the polls of his own accord, it is arguable that he is so slight a civic asset that his compulsory vote is but little worth.

"Shall we have compulsory voting in their constitutions; none has it in practice. There is an opportunity for some commonwealth to pioneer, but there may be other roads to better work breaking."

WANTS U. S. TO SELL SHIPS.

New York, Dec. 7.—Captain Robert Dollar, California ship owner, and a member of the shipping commission, has issued a statement in which the government is urged to sell its merchant ships to private owners and to then pay these owners the difference between the wage rate of a foreign crew and the wage rate of an American crew.

Mr. Dollar says: "We certainly want to get some ordinary, common sense Judge Gorin appointed. He expresses fear of competition by Japanese shipping. Japan, Mr. Dollar says, is an authority on Oriental labor, and only recently he was ordered by the Japanese government to raise the wages of longshoremen and shipbuilders in violation of Oriental standards.

When the war started vessels owned by the Dollars on the Pacific were flying the British flag, but after the armistice started that a German rader was flying the American flag. Dollar became a 100 per cent American and hoisted the Stars and Stripes.

MEAT EMPLOYES ASK MORE.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—The organized meat cutters and butcher workmen have secured Frances P. Hefley to plead their case before an arbitrator, who will pass upon wage demands of 50,000 workers.

This wage movement is backed by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and allied trades. In a plea for thorough organization, the Amalgamated Journal says: "The attention to their remarkable progress in the past few years is because the workers are urged to be awake that a higher standard may be reached.

It is stated that this noble goal can be attained only by greater organization.

ELECTROTYPERS GAIN.

Boston, Dec. 7.—Electrotypers' union No. 11 has raised wages $1.50 a week for the journeymen, $2 for foremen and $1 a week for other branches.

South Bend, Ind., Dec. 7.—A general wage increase of $2 a week has been secured by organized electrotypers.

Franklin, Pa., Dec. 7.—A war bonus of $2 a week has been secured by Electrotypers' union No. 79 of this city.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 7.—Street Car Men's union No. 540, whose members are employed by the Trenton and Mercer county traction corporation, has raised wages of motormen and conductors from 25 cents to 42 cents an hour for straight time and to 63 cents an hour for overtime. The union secured wage increases from 2 cents to 4 cents an hour for other employes.

GOVERNOR STRADDLED.

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—The labor council has issued a statement declaring the action of Gov. Stephens in commuting the death sentence of Thomas J. Mooney to life imprisonment. The statement says the state executive straddled.

STEEL TRUST RESUMES ITS OPEN OPPOSITION

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 7.—The triumphant end of the war for democracy has not changed the steel trust, which has resumed its lawless methods in opposition to trade unionism.

The work of organizing the steel industry is being directed by the national committee for organizing iron and steel workers, President Gompers, chairman. Co-operating with the committee are 24 international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L.

At the committee's headquarters in this city it is stated that organizers exist in western Pennsylvania and that the right of assembly is denied in many localities dominated by the steel trust.

The committee has issued a statement in which it is declared that in the various towns along the Monongahela river, the heart of America's steel industry, "there has not been a whit more freedom of assembly than in Russia before the Russian revolution. Despite its indispensable services to the government in the great war, A. F. of L. is treated as an outlaw organization in this privileged district.

"To suppress the right of assembly," says the committee, "the steel corporations, it is said, have men employed as occasion demands. In Braddock and Homestead, the halls for mass meetings had been secured and paid for, the local city officials informed that the use of the halls into calling off the meetings by Superintendent Morgan, of Rankin, where the hall proprietor had more courage than usual, refused to submit to the outrageous dictation, the local board of the steel trust had the hall closed straight out into broad daylight and positively forbade the A. F. of L. to hold meetings in that city.

"In McKeesport the unAmerican and unconstitutional regulation prevails that the sanction of the mayor must be had before public meetings can be held. It is impossible to hire a hall until this regulation is complied with. A city ordinance, therefore, proceeded to Mayor Lyle to secure the necessary permits for public meetings. They were refused point blank and told that the A. F. of L. is a bunch of I. W. W. agitators, bolshevik and agitators and would not be allowed to hold any meetings in that city."

PACKERS STRANGLE TRADE.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The federal trade commission has submitted a report to congress which says that "the five" meat packers are charged with practically the entire supply of fresh meats. The firms are Swift, Morris, Armour, Wilson and Cudahy. All of them are charged with controlling the meat output of South America and the subsidiary companies.

Collusion in buying, the report says, is the rule with all the principal markets.

"The buyers," it is stated, "begin buying at the same time. If one holds off the market for a day, he has the influence of the big packers' buying that the market is not 'there' and they get the keen edge in bidding."

Competition between the "big five" buyers of live stock is declared to be a myth. That the packers have set overvalues on the value of manufactured publish opinion is shown in this statement:

"That there is a joint contribution to funds expended under their secret control to influence public opinion and government action and thus to maintain the power of their combination."

LABOR PAPER PROVES WORTH

Jackson, Mich., Dec. 7.—The Square Deal, official organ of the trades council, told the story in big type on the front page. That labor's union secured 16 automobiles and plastered the town with copies of the Square Deal.

The daily press is now cautiously saying that the Square Deal has won Patriotic league is charged with having "incited" the mob which hung Jackson News fears that this mob "patriotism" will hurt business. It says:

"In order to be of service to the community the Jackson Chamber must exercise caution and not permit mistakes to be made, such as the refusal to allow the Square Deal to be the United States department of agriculture, and the state council of defense.

The proposal was rejected in an emphatic manner and following the lead of the San Francisco Star hands this to the author of the resolution:

"However, there are many other opportunities for you to make a name for yourself—and he'll accept most of them."

MORE WOMEN WORKERS.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The influx of women in wage-earning capacities because of the war is indicated by the census bureau in a report issued by the commission, which states that in the United States under the census of 1910 there were 8,075,000 women, as compared with 21,487 in the previous census, which is the report points to an increase of 441 per cent in the number of women employed, while the number of men increased only 12 per cent.

PAPER PLAN MODIFIED.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The war industries board announces the withdrawal of restrictions affecting the manufacture of periodicals, including daily and Sunday newspapers, and the limitation of the use of newsprint paper for the present.

THE "JOB" COMES FIRST.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 7.—The Oregon Labor Press publishes the following statement in big type across its first page:

"A minimum wage is no benefit to the man who has no job."

CITY EMPLOYES GAIN.

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 7.—The city council has raised wages of policemen, firemen and street sweepers $10 a month.

GOVERNOR COMMUTES MOONEY'S SENTENCE

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—Governor Stephens has commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Thomas J. Mooney.

The governor's action is received with dissatisfaction by those who have protested against Mooney's conviction because of perjury charges that have developed since the trial ended. There is no indictment against Mooney and the governor has been urged to pardon him that he may be tried on the charges. Mooney's friendless causes which led him, to commute Mooney's sentence, the governor said there were "certain features in connection with the case which convinced him that the sentence of death should not be executed."

In his statement the governor included two messages from President Wilson, by which commutation was urged. In the first message, dated March 27 last, the president said the imposition of Mooney's sentence was a most heartfelt effect upon certain classes of labor which the execution would greatly complicate."

On June 4 last the president again urged commutation. "It would be a venture again," he said. "to call your attention to what seems to me to be the international significance which attaches to it."

Mooney has protested against the commutation and has demanded a trial free from perjury. "I am not afraid, rather hang," he said, "than be condemned to a living grave."

MUCH AUSTRALIAN WHEAT.

New York, Dec. 7.—Stories that the nations of the world are facing starvation, and that Australia is preparing to ship a statement by the Washington correspondent of the New York World, that Australia has available 200,000,000 bushels of last season's wheat crop and that the end of the year has practically arrived in the world. By the middle of January Australia will have its new crop. This will increase the surplus, now looming large. England is preparing to buy the Australian surplus, which she will buy for 96 cents a bushel. The World correspondent states that he has been informed that this wheat could be landed in American ports for $1.60 a bushel. The United States government has pledged farmers that it will pay $2.20 a bushel for wheat raised in this country. This is 40 cents more than the Australian price, but the $2.20 rate will be maintained because winter wheat has been planted by the farmers on the promise that they will be paid that rate.

It is stated that there is little likelihood of any great rush in this country for the Australian wheat, as it would be almost impossible for the United States miller to get ships to import that commodity. But if an American miller could secure Australian wheat for less than the government promise that they will be paid that rate.

It is stated that there is little likelihood of any great rush in this country for the Australian wheat, as it would be almost impossible for a United States miller to get ships to import that commodity. But if an American miller could secure Australian wheat for less than the government promise that they will be paid that rate.

It is stated that there is little likelihood of any great rush in this country for the Australian wheat, as it would be almost impossible for a United States miller to get ships to import that commodity. But if an American miller could secure Australian wheat for less than the government promise that they will be paid that rate.

PACKERS STRANGLE TRADE.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The federal trade commission has submitted a report to congress which says that "the five" meat packers are charged with practically the entire supply of fresh meats. The firms are Swift, Morris, Armour, Wilson and Cudahy. All of them are charged with controlling the meat output of South America and the subsidiary companies.

Collusion in buying, the report says, is the rule with all the principal markets.

"The buyers," it is stated, "begin buying at the same time. If one holds off the market for a day, he has the influence of the big packers' buying that the market is not 'there' and they get the keen edge in bidding."

Competition between the "big five" buyers of live stock is declared to be a myth. That the packers have set overvalues on the value of manufactured publish opinion is shown in this statement:

"That there is a joint contribution to funds expended under their secret control to influence public opinion and government action and thus to maintain the power of their combination."

LABOR PAPER PROVES WORTH

Jackson, Mich., Dec. 7.—The Square Deal, official organ of the trades council, told the story in big type on the front page. That labor's union secured 16 automobiles and plastered the town with copies of the Square Deal.

The daily press is now cautiously saying that the Square Deal has won Patriotic league is charged with having "incited" the mob which hung Jackson News fears that this mob "patriotism" will hurt business. It says:

"In order to be of service to the community the Jackson Chamber must exercise caution and not permit mistakes to be made, such as the refusal to allow the Square Deal to be the United States department of agriculture, and the state council of defense.

The proposal was rejected in an emphatic manner and following the lead of the San Francisco Star hands this to the author of the resolution:

"However, there are many other opportunities for you to make a name for yourself—and he'll accept most of them."

MORE WOMEN WORKERS.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The influx of women in wage-earning capacities because of the war is indicated by the census bureau in a report issued by the commission, which states that in the United States under the census of 1910 there were 8,075,000 women, as compared with 21,487 in the previous census, which is the report points to an increase of 441 per cent in the number of women employed, while the number of men increased only 12 per cent.

PAPER PLAN MODIFIED.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The war industries board announces the withdrawal of restrictions affecting the manufacture of periodicals, including daily and Sunday newspapers, and the limitation of the use of newsprint paper for the present.

THE "JOB" COMES FIRST.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 7.—The Oregon Labor Press publishes the following statement in big type across its first page:

"A minimum wage is no benefit to the man who has no job."

CITY EMPLOYES GAIN.

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 7.—The city council has raised wages of policemen, firemen and street sweepers $10 a month.

URGE SEAMEN'S LAW IN MARITIME EUROPE

Washington, Dec. 7.—Acting under instructions of the executive board of the International Seamen's union, Andrew Furuseth, president of the organization, has secured passports from the United States and will tour the maritime countries of Europe in the interest of the seamen's law, to secure the cooperation of seamen in England, France, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark in extending this legislation to these countries, and to advise with these seamen on the reconstruction period.

Seamen of the United States are awake to an international hostility to the La Follette seamen's act. This law makes it possible for a seaman who has shipped from a foreign port, to quit his job when he reaches an American port. Formerly he was arrested by American authorities, on complaint of the foreign owner, and thrown back on the ship. Because of the seamen's act, the foreign owner knows he cannot hold his seamen as they will quit and force him to re-employ them at the prevailing rates at the American port. The effect of this legislation is to raise the standard for seamen throughout the world, and because it has a language clause, makes it to a fair degree, for the Oriental, the employment of Orientals on American ships, as more interested in cheap labor and dividends, than they are in building up an American merchant marine, manned by American seamen. This is only possible by the American boy returning to the sea, and this he will not do if working conditions are unattractive and if he is compelled to bunk with Orientals and others who do not speak American and who do not speak his language.

"If the men who talk about international trade and standards for seamen are sincere let them urge the international labor world to adopt the seamen's law."

HOW YEAGER RUNS THINGS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 7.—Orders and resolutions adopting attitudes inimical to the rights of people in this island are appointed by Gov. Yeager, and the wishes of the people are disregarded, so far as the governor is concerned—is shown in the conviction of Santiago Iglesias, labor leader who was denied a trial by jury and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Iglesias now demands that the government withdraw military forces from the Porto Rican lumber industry. They declare that there has been used to establish the loyal legion and disrupt labor unions.

"Yeager believe," said President Covert, "that the government will back him in his attempt to disrupt the organization of workers, boss controlled, in opposition to labor unions, and democratically controlled, and that the good will of the workers can be secured by their appointing him over themselves. They want the loyal legion converted into a strike breaking swearing loyalty to the lumber association instead of the government."

LATIN AMERICANS CONFER.

New York, Dec. 7.—Representatives of the Latin-American labor national labor movement have been meeting in this city to discuss the sending of delegates to the proposed international labor conferences. These nations were represented: Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, San Domingo, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Porto Rico. It was decided that each of these countries should have a labor bill, which was proposed conference. Guatemala, San Salvador and the United States congress and Ecuador are united in the Labor Conference of Central America, and have organized a delegation from their federation.

RETURNING TO PEACE BASIS.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Reorganization of the department of labor from a war to a peace basis has been announced by Secretary Wilson. This will be done by his appointment of an advisory committee of three to assist him in the readjustment. Louis P. Post, assistant secretary of labor, is chairman of the committee. The other committee members are A. W. Parker, chief of the children's bureau, and Miss Roger W. Babson, director of the information and education service of the Bell Van Kleeck, director of the woman in industry service, and Henry Hamilton, director of the working conditions service.

TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 7.—At a conference of workers and employers in this city an agreement was reached for the reduction of accidents. Agreement to the law which will provide for special classification of risks in the different industries in this state.

Chairman Hughes, of the industrial insurance commission, declared that the principle agreed to be worked out on the basis of reducing the number of accidents from 50 to 60 per cent.

PAPER MEN WIN ANOTHER.

Stellacoom, Wash., Dec. 7.—The Camano Lumber company has signed a union-shop agreement with the International Brotherhood of Pulp and Sulphite Workers. Wages range from $4.00 to $6.50 for men and a $5-a-day minimum for women. Eight hours' work per day is agreed to, with Sundays and holidays off. Any dispute which may arise between the company and the union is to be referred to the third arbitrator if the parties fail to agree.

CITY FIREMEN UNITE.

Rome, N. Y., Dec. 7.—Stationary firemen have formed a union and will affiliate with the International Association of Fire Fighters.

FREIGHT HANDLERS UNITE.

Dubuque, Iowa, Dec. 7.—Freight handlers employed by railroads in this city have organized and are affiliated with the trades and labor assembly.

AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

AFTER-WAR PROBLEMS ARE MAINLY ECONOMIC

—President Wilson.

Washington, Dec. 7.—In his address to congress on the 4th of July, President Wilson indicated that our reconstruction problems are more of an economic nature than legislative, and that while legislative action may be necessary in some cases, the general welfare would be served best by permitting the people themselves to adjust their affairs without dictation.

He favored the resumption of public works, the stimulation of trade and the application of the plan of Secretary of the Interior Lane, who urges the reclamation of waste and swamp lands by the government, which would assist soldiers and other citizens in a back-to-the-land movement.

Regarding the many reconstruction plans that have been urged and discussed, the president said:

"So far as our domestic affairs are concerned the problem of our return to peace is a problem of economic and industrial readjustment. The problem is less serious for us than it must be for the other nations which have suffered the disarrangements and the waste of war-longer than we. Our people, therefore, will not wait to be coached and led. They will act promptly and upon their own quick and resourceful at every readjustment they make in purpose and self-reliant in action.

"Under these conditions, American seamen have set the agitation in this country for an international standard of working conditions for the sea, to be worked out at the peace conference.

"This means," said President Furuseth, "that America will surrender her seamen's law, which no law of another nations have nothing to give. And we ask that our seamen be permitted in our case as with shore workers. The forces behind this movement in our country are stockholders in foreign ship properties, who, although American citizens, are more interested in cheap labor and dividends, than they are in building up an American merchant marine, manned by American seamen. This is only possible by the American boy returning to the sea, and this he will not do if working conditions are unattractive and if he is compelled to bunk with Orientals and others who do not speak American and who do not speak his language.

"If the men who talk about international trade and standards for seamen are sincere let them urge the international labor world to adopt the seamen's law."

HOW YEAGER RUNS THINGS.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 7.—Orders and resolutions adopting attitudes inimical to the rights of people in this island are appointed by Gov. Yeager, and the wishes of the people are disregarded, so far as the governor is concerned—is shown in the conviction of Santiago Iglesias, labor leader who was denied a trial by jury and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Iglesias now demands that the government withdraw military forces from the Porto Rican lumber industry. They declare that there has been used to establish the loyal legion and disrupt labor unions.

"Yeager believe," said President Covert, "that the government will back him in his attempt to disrupt the organization of workers, boss controlled, in opposition to labor unions, and democratically controlled, and that the good will of the workers can be secured by their appointing him over themselves. They want the loyal legion converted into a strike breaking swearing loyalty to the lumber association instead of the government."

LATIN AMERICANS CONFER.

New York, Dec. 7.—Representatives of the Latin-American labor national labor movement have been meeting in this city to discuss the sending of delegates to the proposed international labor conferences. These nations were represented: Peru, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, San Domingo, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Porto Rico. It was decided that each of these countries should have a labor bill, which was proposed conference. Guatemala, San Salvador and the United States congress and Ecuador are united in the Labor Conference of Central America, and have organized a delegation from their federation.

RETURNING TO PEACE BASIS.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Reorganization of the department of labor from a war to a peace basis has been announced by Secretary Wilson. This will be done by his appointment of an advisory committee of three to assist him in the readjustment. Louis P. Post, assistant secretary of labor, is chairman of the committee. The other committee members are A. W. Parker, chief of the children's bureau, and Miss Roger W. Babson, director of the information and education service of the Bell Van Kleeck, director of the woman in industry service, and Henry Hamilton, director of the working conditions service.

TO REDUCE ACCIDENTS.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 7.—At a conference of workers and employers in this city an agreement was reached for the reduction of accidents. Agreement to the law which will provide for special classification of risks in the different industries in this state.

Chairman Hughes, of the industrial insurance commission, declared that the principle agreed to be worked out on the basis of reducing the number of accidents from 50 to 60 per cent.

PAPER MEN WIN ANOTHER.

Stellacoom, Wash., Dec. 7.—The Camano Lumber company has signed a union-shop agreement with the International Brotherhood of Pulp and Sulphite Workers. Wages range from $4.00 to $6.50 for men and a $5-a-day minimum for women. Eight hours' work per day is agreed to, with Sundays and holidays off. Any dispute which may arise between the company and the union is to be referred to the third arbitrator if the parties fail to agree.

CITY FIREMEN UNITE.

Rome, N. Y., Dec. 7.—Stationary firemen have formed a union and will affiliate with the International Association of Fire Fighters.

FREIGHT HANDLERS UNITE.

Dubuque, Iowa, Dec. 7.—Freight handlers employed by railroads in this city have organized and are affiliated with the trades and labor assembly.